

**News from the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Office:
October 21, 2009**

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act:

Maintaining Educational Continuity for Homeless Children and Youth in Vermont

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2009 McKinney Vento Information Packets..were sent out earlier this month. This year our packet is teal blue, to distinguish it from earlier years. We ask that you recycle the **red** McKinney Vento packets since many materials have been revised. This year, we did not include a full copy of the McKinney Vento Law, which is available online at:

<http://www.serve.org/nche/m-v.php>

In addition, the 2009 packet includes:

- **Vermont Homeless Children and Youth Program brochure..your technical assistance network:**
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/educ_homeless_brochure.pdf
- **List of homeless education liaisons by SU/SD, also available and updated at:**
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/educ_homeless_liaisons.pdf
- **Homeless education posters to be displayed at all schools with your contact information written into the open box. Call the 800# on the poster to order additional posters for free...and while you are on the line with the National Center for Homeless Education, you can order Parent Packs, which are folders that can be used to hold important school documents (these are also free).**
- ***The McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act: Effective Education for Homeless Children and Youth (2008)*..a self tutorial powerpoint that can also be accessed at:**
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/toolbox/liaisons_providers_0808.pdf
- ***The McKinney Vento Homeless Education Act: A Liaison Training Tool for Administrators, Faculty and Staff (2009)*...a powerpoint to use for training in your own school community that can also be accessed at:**
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/toolbox/admin_community_0109.pdf
- **A Liaison Orientation and Self Assessment that also serves as a position description that incorporates the federal requirements for the designated Homeless Education Liaison for each SU/SD..also online at:**
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/toolbox/educ_homeless_self_assessment_tool.pdf

Vermont Department of Education

- And information on Vermont Shelters, Economic Services Division District Offices, the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs with a Vermont map locating each program

Additional 2009 McKinney Vento Information Packets are available by contacting Liz Rand at liz.rand@state.vt.us or 828-3150. I would like to thank Liz for the enormous amount of work that she gave to the development and distribution of these materials.

The State Office for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth has created the 2009 McKinney Vento Information Packet, established the Vermont Homeless Children and Youth Project and developed the website to support you in meeting the federal requirements for Homeless Education Liaisons. A summary of the responsibilities in the law includes the following activities:

- Ensure that homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel and that homeless students enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school, including unaccompanied youth.
- Homeless students receive all the educational services for which they are eligible, including free meals, Title 1 services, Head Start and pre-school programs administered by the SU/SD and referrals to appropriate services
- Parent/guardian is informed of educational opportunities available to children and can participate in their children's education
- Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated
- Enrollment disputes are mediated and students are immediately enrolled in school pending resolution of the dispute
- Parent/guardian and unaccompanied youth are informed of transportation options, including to the school of origin, and is assisted in accessing these services.
- Assist homeless students with obtaining immunizations or medical records if necessary.

This Year's Focus: Track, Train, Team... This year's focus is to support training of your school community, so that students who may be experiencing homelessness can be identified and enrolled. Please contact the Vermont Homeless Children and Youth Project staff if you would like assistance in developing and presenting a training session. During school year 2008-2009, 880 students were identified and enrolled by Vermont schools.

Self Paced Online McKinney Vento Training... Have you been interested in the online webinars but were unable to schedule the time? Now you can access the best training in the country on the McKinney Vento Law and services to homeless students offered by the National Center on Homeless Education. There has been lots of great feedback on these webinars and I would highly recommend that you take some time to click in and explore your options. I especially recommend the following recorded NCHE Webinars:

The McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act: An Overview... providing an expanded introduction to the federal requirements for all schools for services to homeless students

Determining Eligibility for Rights and Services Under McKinney Vento: How do I know if a student's living arrangement qualifies as "homeless", including:

- What do the terms "fixed", "regular", and "adequate" mean?
- Are all doubled-up families homeless?
- How do I know if a child should be considered "awaiting foster care placement"?

- How do I know if a residence should be considered substandard housing?

These topics and additional topics can be accessed at:

http://www.serve.org/nche/web/s_p.php

I will continue to link you to information on the National Center for Homeless Education webinars available throughout the year on this listserv.

This Issue's Question... Thanks to Sue Cano from Lamoille North

Q: Which Liaison is responsible for determining homeless status and school enrollment options for a student who may be experiencing homelessness?

A: The Liaison who serves the area where the student is currently residing is responsible for determining homeless status and school enrollment options..and for filling out the Worksheet for Determining Homeless Status and School Placement. But this process is best done in conjunction with the Liaison from the school of origin (the school where the student was enrolled prior to becoming homeless).

If you have received this newsletter, you have been designated as the Homeless Education Liaison for your SU/SD to the Vermont Department of Education. To update information, contact Wendy Ross, State Coordinator, Education for Homeless Children and Youth at wendy.ross@state.vt.us or 828-5148. The Education for Homeless Children and Youth website is located at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_homeless.html

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